

429 Hillcrest Road
York, PA 17403
25 September 2003

Commissioners:

I agree with Kiernan Holliday's request for the removal of Morse Code from the Amateur Radio Service licensing requirements. The Amateur Radio community rightfully recognizes the code's importance as the only reliable "when all else fails..." form of communication. However, with WRC-03 eliminating Morse as a requirement, and no other service officially depending upon this mode for daily or emergency communications, requiring Morse for Amateur licensing seems irrelevant.

However, I do feel that the Commission should encourage the use of this mode of communication among all Radio Services including the Amateur Radio Service. Additionally, I feel the Commission should take steps to officially protect the continuing use and skill development of Morse Code by Amateur Radio Operators.

Ideally I would like to see the removal of Morse Code, Element 1 replaced with a new "hands-on" testing element. Specifically, traffic and message handling. My experience in the hobby is that traffic handling has a greater impact on the Amateur community as well as on every other community that interacts with the Amateur Service (fire, police, parade, etc.). Proficiency in traffic handling should be required for licensing all Amateur Operators.

While other country's seem to get along fine with just 2 license classes, I feel that even with the removal of the Code requirement that the current structure remain in place with the following changes:

- Technician Class: Keep current frequency & power allocations, but rename the class **Public Service Class**.
- General Class: No change in privileges, but more emphasis in the testing of high frequency knowledge and skills. Currently, the General Class test is little more than the Technician Class test with very little extra knowledge required.
- Extra Class: Keep as is.
- Novice and Advanced Classes: Do not renew these licenses as they expire. Require that the holders either test for an offered license or forfeit their expiring ones. Perhaps this will help streamline the Commission's licensing system, allowing for an eventual decrease in continuing vanity call fees.

In conclusion, I support RM-10783's position on the removal of Morse Code from the Amateur Radio Service licensing requirements. The Code should be replaced with a new "hands-on" testing element in traffic handling which should be required of all Amateurs. The Technician Class should be renamed the Public Service Class which better reflects the services offered by operators with this class license.

Thank you,
Scott Lindsey-Stevens
N3ASA